

## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

### WRITTEN REPLY

### PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION 231

**Mr D R Ryder (Gauteng: DA) to ask the Minister of Trade and Industry:**

- 1) When last did his department use a white hat hacker to identify possible security gaps in their information technology system and cyber security threats;
- 2) Whether he will (a) employ such a hacker or (b) request the relevant Sector Education and Training Authorities to employ it; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

CW341E

**Reply:**

I have been advised by the department as follows:

“1) The Department conducted a major pen test during the 2015/16 financial year and has implemented an automated vulnerability assessment and management tool to help identify possible attack vectors.

The Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) conducted a “white hat” penetration (pen) test on the department’s infrastructure relating to Internet services during AGSA’s audit on the department for the year that ended 31 March 2019.

At the same time, a “Grey Hat” pen test was finalised in July 2019 against specific departmental internet facing services and solutions. An external party to the department conducted this test.

- 2a) No. The department has specialised ICT security resources and is of the opinion that it is better to upskill the current staff rather than employ new staff to fulfill such a role.
- b) No. The department prefers to insource these specialised skills when required to provide greater insight into the possible issues within the department’s ICT security infrastructure. The State Security Agency (SSA) and the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) offer pen tests on request and the department has utilised these services in the past.”

**-END-**